

REMEMBERING CONNER
KURAHASHI

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Conner Kurahashi, who passed away on January 22, 2022. A beloved member of California's 33rd Congressional District, he was known for his exemplary leadership skills, devotion to civic engagement, and commitment to community service.

Conner was born on October 7, 1999, in Torrance, CA to Brian Kurahashi and Gay Koga. From a young age, Conner had a sense of compassion and supported others in their times of need. As an elementary and middle school student, he volunteered his time to help set up school assemblies, and he served as student body president in his senior year at West High School. As student body president, he ably represented his classmates at Torrance City Council and Torrance Unified School District Board meetings.

Always thinking of others and planning ahead, Conner was committed to documenting the activities of his high school classmates; he had stashed photos and videos for their 10-year high school reunion. Even after graduation, he continued to document his sister's achievements on the girls' basketball team and the school's track and field meets. Conner had a hand in many campus activities: fundraising, taking photos, painting signs, and volunteering with the Kiwanis International organization. He was also a multi-sport athlete, playing volleyball and basketball, as well as running track and cross-country.

As a student at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, Conner helped plan basketball games and tournaments, dances, overnight ski trips, leadership conferences, and community service events with his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. He also served as Chief Communications Officer for the Nikkei Student Union. Conner was to graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning.

To friends and family, Conner will be remembered for his love of cooking, gardening, and even building a personal computer from scratch. Conner also loved basketball from an early age, playing for community youth teams and coaching them as he got older.

Conner is survived by his parents, Brian and Gay; sister, Bailey; and grandmother, Kazuko Kurahashi. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our thoughts and condolences to the Kurahashi family as they try to deal with this tragic loss. May Conner's memory live on in all those he touched through his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
NATHAN WENDEL GRAY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nathan Gray, who lost his battle with childhood cancer on January 6, 2022.

In his eight years of life, Nathan's courage, positivity, and bright smile inspired many, raised awareness for childhood cancer, and banded a community together, inspiring others to do good.

Nathan was born on July 16, 2013 to Jeffrey and Patricia Gray, and he was the beloved brother of ten year old Jeffrey and six year old Natalie. When Nathan was two years old, he was diagnosed with Wilms tumor, a rare form of kidney cancer. He fought cancer with the bravery of a superhero, enduring 221 doses of chemotherapy, 26 surgeries, 33 days of radiation, an oral inhibitor, and more than 100 blood platelet transfusions. Despite the challenges of his illness, Nathan attended St. Nicholas-St. Mary's School and enjoyed swimming, playing video games, and riding his bike.

Nathan's bravery and joy garnered local attention in August 2016 when the Facebook page "Nathan the Super Hero" was started by his family to document his battle with cancer. Thousands of people have followed the page, sharing words of encouragement, celebrating the joyful moments, and offering comfort and support during the challenging ones. Nathan quickly became a local celebrity, inspiring members of the community with his infectious smile and relentless courage. The community rallied around Nathan, cheering him on and making him feel special. In February 2020, the Wilkes-Barre Area Wolfpack named him honorary team captain before they played their inaugural home game at Wilkes-Barre Memorial Stadium. In August 2020, Wilkes-Barre police and fire department vehicles paraded past his home while well-wishers delivered gifts, and, in December 2021, carolers visited Nathan to spread some Christmas cheer. Just last month, the Wilkes-Barre council unanimously voted to rename the Barney Farms Park in Nathan's honor.

Nathan's family's willingness to be open and share their son's experiences with Wilms tumor helped shed important light on the issue of childhood cancer and the need for more aggressive research and increased funding for prevention and cures—so that children like Nathan do not have to suffer.

I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of this brave young man. Nathan's memory will live on with his beloved family and friends and the large community that he inspired with his determination and positivity.

HONORING THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY ANITA ST. HILL CHISHOLM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a trailblazer, icon, educator, and social activist, The Honorable Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm.

The daughter of immigrants, "Fighting Shirley" (as she became known) was the second African American in the New York Legislature (1964), the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress (1968), and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for the Presidency of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). During her impressive tenure in

Congress, she introduced over 50 pieces of legislation and was a staunch advocate for education, expanding minimum wage standards, racial and gender equality, combating poverty, and ending the Vietnam War. She also co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus (1971) and became the first Black woman and the second woman to ever serve on the House Rules Committee. After she retired from Congress in 1983, she went on to teach at Mount Holyoke College and later lecture in Palm Coast, Florida.

Shirley Chisholm is known quite often for the quotes, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." She was a formidable woman who fought against the odds (sexism and racial discrimination) during her career, inspired the future generation of leaders, and paved the way for others looking to pursue a career in politics and/or public service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District and the distinguished members of the Congressional Black Caucus, in paying tribute to the life and legacy of The Honorable Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm.

JAMIE CONNELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jamie Connell of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for her service to our country and wish her well on her retirement.

For more than 37 years, Jamie has served the constituents of the State of Colorado and other states with her public service. With most of the BLM public lands concentrated in Colorado's Western Slope, Jamie oversaw more than 8.3 million acres of public land and 27 million acres of federal mineral estate in Colorado, ranging from alpine tundra, colorful canyons and sagebrush steppe to mountains rising more than 14,000 feet above sea level. During her time in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, and the District of Columbia, she tirelessly worked to improve and many areas of natural resource management. In her role, she has worked constructively with officials in the legislative and judicial branches of federal and state government as well as with industry and non-profit partners.

Jamie's hard work and dedication has been tremendous. I wish Jamie all the best in retirement and send gratitude for her service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING MAGGIE WADE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Maggie Wade.